GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1185
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2015
Implementation of NFSA
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of foodgrains being supplied under the Food Security Act (FSA) for each person is as per their entitlement in all the States/regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor indicating the entitlement, allocation and actual distribution of foodgrains during each of the last three months and the current month, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints/reports of alleged irregularities including distribution/supply of foodgrains less than the entitlements of poor families and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a)&(b) Based on the preparedness and identification of beneficiaries reported by 13 States/Union Territories (UTs) under National Food Security Act (NFSA), Government of India is making allocation of foodgrains to these 13 States/UTs @ 5 kg per person per month for priority category and @ 35kg per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) category as per their entitlement under the Act.

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(c)&(d): There have been complaints about irregularities in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including supply of lower quantity, diversion of foodgrains, etc. in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State/UT Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for its implementation within the State/UT rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, increased monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc.

With a view to check irregularities in the TPDS, Government has also initiated a plan scheme on 'End-to-end Computerization of TPDS Operations' on cost sharing basis with the States/UTs, which involves digitization of ration cards/beneficiary and other data bases, computerization of supply chain management, setting up of transparency portals, FPS automation etc.

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